

*For Immediate Release*

## **IDOC Gives Back to Haiti Relief Fund**

Indianapolis, IN (February 9, 2010) – In an agency-wide effort to raise money for the Haiti Relief Fund, the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has collected \$11,016.95.

Staff and offenders at each IDOC facility were asked to collect and donate to an organization close to their location aiding the Haiti Relief Fund, such as the American Red Cross. Chaplain Stephen T. Hall, the Director of Religious Services, contacted facilities with PLUS programs to encourage them to donate as well. PLUS or “Purposeful Living Units Serve” programs refer to the faith-based and character building housing units operated at several IDOC facilities.

To help raise funds, each facility designated a charitable event. One facility held a silent auction; another had a bake sale, and one sold Subway sandwiches to raise money. All of the facilities with PLUS programs donated a collective \$4500. The Organic Farmers at Indiana State Prison (ISP) donated \$500 and ISP’s Continuing Education Counsel donated an additional \$500. Wabash Valley offenders also donated nearly \$900 to the cause.

In addition to the money raised, Pendleton Juvenile collected non-perishable items for donation.

IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss commented, “It is encouraging to witness our offenders step up to help the less fortunate in Haiti. By contributing what little they have to this cause, offenders demonstrate true acts of unselfish kindness that removes them from the type of criminal thinking that led to their involvement in the criminal justice system in the first place.”

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